

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KATHMA 05458 200611Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIEP-02 /082 W

----- 111533

R 191115Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3748

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 5458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, IN, NP

SUBJECT: INDIA, NEPAL RESUME TALKS ON WATER RESOURCES

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR RASGOTRA HAS RECENTLY CALLED ON HMG MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND POWER TO CONTINUE EARLIER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT PROMOTING JOINT EFFORTS TO CONTROL NEPAL'S VAST WATER RESOURCES. BRIEFING THE INDIAN PRESS FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 14 MEETINGS, RASGOTRA IS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED "SATISFACTION" WITH THE HMG DECISION TO ACCEPT A SURVEY TEAM MADE UP OF INDIAN AND NEPALI EXPERTS TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON MEANS TO CONTROL NOT ONLY THE RAPTI RIVER BUT ALSO TO CONSTRUCT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON THE KARNALI.

2. RASGOTRA'S MEETINGS ARE A FOLLOW UP TO A RECENT JOINT MEETING OF EXPERTS IN KATHMANDU WHICH CONSIDERED HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AT PANCHESWAR AND PURNAGIRI AS WELL AS THE KARNALI PROJECT, THE LARGEST POTENTIAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN NEPAL. THE SUBJECT OF JOINT ACTION HAD EARLIER BEEN RAISED BY THE GOI DURING KING BIRENDRA'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI OCTOBER 1 WHEN, IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED, BOTH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND IRRIGATION AND ENERGY MINISTER K.C. PANT TOLD THE KING IT WAS TIME TO MOVE TOWARDS REALISTIC PLANNING TO CONTROL THE PERENNIAL FLOODS WHICH SWEEP DOWN FROM NEPAL'S HILLS INTO THE INDIAN PLAINS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KATHMA 05458 200611Z

3. ACCORDING TO INDIAN PRESS REPORTS HMG HAS AGREED TO FURTHER

MEETINGS BETWEEN EXPERTS "AT A HIGH LEVEL".

4. COMMENT: THE SUBJECT OF JOINT WATER CONTROL HAS LONG BEEN A SORE POINT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE GIANT KARNALI PROJECT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN A POLITICAL FOOTBALL FOR OVER A DECADE, WITH BOTH SIDES EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ON THE WISDOM OF THE EFFORT. NEPAL HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO INDIAN PROPOSALS ON WHERE THE DAM WOULD BE PLACED, SAYING THAT TOO MUCH OF ITS TERRITORY WOULD BE FLOODED; INDIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO PLACE SO MUCH OF ITS ENERGY NEEDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A FOREIGN POWER. BOTH SIDES MAY NOW BE RESOLVED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH JOINT FEASIBILITY STUDIES AS THE FIRST STEP TO BILATERAL COOPERATION.

CAFGO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL RESOURCES, WATER, FLOOD CONTROL, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CONSULTANTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA05458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-0170
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751225/aaaaavfq.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA, NEPAL RESUME TALKS ON WATER RESOURCES
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, IN, NP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006